

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape comprising a non-magnetic support, a primer layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on a surface of the non-magnetic support, a magnetic layer containing magnetic powder formed on the upper surface of the primer layer, and a backcoat layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on the other surface of the non-magnetic support, characterized in that

the magnetic powder comprises needle-like iron-based magnetic particles,

the thickness of the magnetic layer is 0.09 μm or less, and

the non-magnetic powder in the primer layer comprises plate-like non-magnetic oxide particles with an average particle size of 10 to 100 nm.

2. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 1, wherein the needle-like iron-based magnetic particles have an average major axis length of 20 to 60 nm.

3. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 2, wherein the needle-like iron-based magnetic particles comprise 20 to 40 wt.% of cobalt, 10 to 30 wt.% of at least one element selected from the group consisting of rare earth elements, and 3 to 10 wt.% of aluminum.

4. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 3, wherein the squareness ratio (B_r/B_s) of the magnetic layer in the lengthwise direction is 0.80 or more.

5. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the plate-like non-magnetic oxide particles are of at least one oxide selected from the group consisting of cerium oxide, zirconium oxide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide and iron oxide.

6. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the primer layer and the backcoat layer contains plate-like conductive particles with an average particle size of 10 to 100 nm.

7. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape according to claim 1, wherein servo signals for use in control of tracking are recorded on the magnetic layer or the backcoat layer.

8. (**Currently Amended**) A magnetic tape comprising a non-magnetic support, a primer layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on a surface of the non-magnetic support, a magnetic layer containing magnetic powder formed on the upper surface of the primer layer, and a backcoat layer containing non-magnetic powder formed on the other surface of the non-magnetic support, characterized in that

the magnetic powder comprises needle-like iron-based magnetic particles,

the thermal expansion coefficient of the magnetic ~~layer~~ tape in the tape widthwise direction is $(0 \text{ to } 8) \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$, and the humidity expansion coefficient of the magnetic ~~layer~~ tape in the tape widthwise direction is $(0 \text{ to } 10) \times 10^{-6}/\% \text{RH}$, and

the amount of edge weave which is formed on either of the edges of the tape serving as the side of reference for the feeding of the tape is 0.8 μm or less.

9. (Original) A magnetic tape according to claim 8, wherein the needle-like iron-based magnetic particles have an average major axis length of 20 to 60 nm.

10. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge comprising a box-shaped casing body, and one reel of a magnetic tape as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the magnetic tape cartridge is tracked under the control of servo signals recorded on the magnetic tape.

11. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the servo signals are recorded as magnetic signals on the magnetic layer or the backcoat layer of the magnetic tape.

12. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the servo signals are recorded as optical signals on the backcoat layer of the magnetic tape.

13. (Withdrawn) A magnetic tape cartridge according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the magnetically recorded signals on the magnetic tape are reproduced by a reproducing head comprising magnetoresistance elements.